

IN THE CLAIMS:

Without prejudice, make the changes in the claims as indicated:

1. **(canceled)** A bit comprising
a drill element,
a driver element, and
a plate member having cutting end,
said plate member, driver element, and drill element being
assembled together with the plate member being intermediate the driver
element and the drill element and said cutting end being adjacent to the
drill element.
2. **(canceled)** The bit of Claim 1 where said plate member, driver
element, and drill element are three separate components.
3. **(canceled)** The bit of Claim 2 where the drill element, driver
element, and plate member are axially aligned and fixedly connected
together.
4. **(canceled)** The bit of Claim 1 where one of said elements has an
elongated axial groove therein and the plate member fits snugly therein.
5. **(canceled)** The bit of Claim 4 where groove is in the drill element
and the plate member has a pointed tip at one end and a cut-a-way
section at another end, said drill element being received in the cut-a-way
section.

6. **(twice amended)** A bit comprising
a drill element,
a driver element, and
a plate member having **a** cutting end,
said plate member, driver element, and drill element being
assembled together with the plate member being intermediate the driver
element and the drill element and said cutting end being adjacent to the
drill element,
said drill element having an elongated groove therein and the plate
member fits snugly therein,
said plate member having at one end a pointed tip and **at an
opposed end** a cut-a-way section, **an end portion of** said **driver
[drill]** element being received in the cut-a-way section, and
wherein the driver element has a diameter that is greater than a
diameter of drill element and there is a cavity in one end of the driver
element into which the drill element fits snugly.

7. **(twice amended)** A bit comprising
a drill element,
a driver element, and
a plate member having **a** cutting end,
said plate member, driver element, and drill element being
assembled together with the plate member being intermediate the driver
element and the drill element and said cutting end being adjacent to the
drill element,
said drill element having an elongated groove therein and the plate
member fits snugly therein,

said plate member having at one end a pointed tip and at an opposed end a cut-a-way section, an end portion of said driver [drill] element being received in the cut-a-way section, and

wherein the drill element has a diameter that is greater than a diameter of driver element and there is a cavity in one end of the drill element into which the driver element fits snugly.

8. **(cancel)** The bit of Claim 7 where both of said elements each have an elongated axial groove therein and the plate member has portions fitting snugly within each groove.

9. **(previously amended)** A bit comprising

a drill element,

a driver element, and

a plate member having cutting end,

said plate member, driver element, and drill element being assembled together with the plate member being intermediate the driver element and the drill element and said cutting end being adjacent to the drill element where an end of one of the elements has a cavity therein and the other element has an end that fits snugly within said cavity.

10. **(original)** A bit comprising

a drill element,

a driver element, and

a plate member having cutting end,

said plate member, driver element, and drill element being assembled together with the plate member being intermediate the driver element and the drill element and said cutting end being adjacent to the drill element,

said plate member, driver element, and drill element being separate components which are axially aligned and fixedly connected together, and

one of said elements has an elongated axial groove therein and the plate member fits snugly therein, and

an end of one of the elements has a cavity therein and the other element has an end that fits snugly within said cavity.

11. **(original)** A bit comprising

a driver element and drill element that are axially aligned,

a plate member intermediate said driver element and drill element, said plate member having a cutting edge for forming a countersink,

said driver element including an elongated body having at a first end a driver head and at a second end a cavity,

said drill element including an elongated body having a first end portion and a second end portion including a drill segment, said first end portion being inserted into the cavity in the driver element,

said plate member, driver element, and drill element being three separate components that are fixedly connected together.

12. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 11 where the plate member has a first end received in a groove in one of the elements.

13. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 12 where one of the elements has an end with a cavity therein and the other element fits snugly within said cavity.

14. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 11 including a pair of annular channels between said first and second ends of the body of the driver element.

15. **(original)** A bit comprising
a driver element and drill element that are axially aligned,
a plate member intermediate said driver element and drill element,
said plate member having a cutting edge for forming a countersink,
said drill element including an elongated body having at a first end
portion a drill tip and at a second end portion a cavity,
said driver element including an elongated body having a first end
with a driver head and a second end inserted into the cavity in the drill
element,
said plate member, driver element, and drill element being three
separate components that are fixedly connected together.
16. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 15 where the plate member
has a first end received in a groove in one of the elements.
17. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 16 where one of the elements
has an end with a cavity therein and the other element fits snugly within
said cavity.
18. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 15 including a pair of
annular channels between said first and second ends of the body of the
driver element.
19. **(cancel)** A bit comprising
a drill element,
a driver element, and
a plate member having a tapered cutting edge,

said plate member, driver element, and drill element each comprising separate discrete components that each have a locking section enabling said components to be assembled together and interlocked to each other in a fixed position relative to each other, with the driver element and the drill element axially aligned and the plate member positioned between the driver element and the drill element and the cutting edge of the plate member positioned with respect to the drill element to enable said cutting edge, concurrent with the drilling of a hole by the drill element, to cut a countersink at a mouth of the hole being drilled.

20. **(cancel)** The bit according to Claim 19 where the locking component of each separate element has predetermined dimensions that enable said elements to be press fitted together upon assembly forming a frictional bond holding said elements in said fixed position relative to each other.

21. **(cancel)** The bit according to Claim 20 including an auxiliary bonding mechanism in addition to the frictional bond holding said components in said fixed position relative to each other.

22. **(original)** A bit comprising
a driver element including
an elongated body having a longitudinal axis,
a driver head at a first end of the driver element body,
a cavity at a second end of the driver element body that
is axially aligned with the longitudinal axis of the driver
element body and open at the second end of the driver
element body, and

a groove in the second end of the driver element body intersecting the cavity ,
a drill element including
an elongated body,
a first end portion, and
a second end portion including a drill segment, and
a plate member having
a first end, and
a second end that is tapered and has a longitudinal slot therein,
said driver element, drill element, and slot in the plate member being axially aligned along the longitudinal axis of the driver element body, with the first end portion of the drill element being received in the slot in the plate member and being at least partially inserted into the cavity, and the first end of the plate member being at least partially inserted into the groove.

23. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 22 where the groove has a predetermined width and the plate member has a predetermined thickness slightly greater than said predetermined width of the groove.

24. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 22 where the slot has a predetermined width that is slightly less than the diameter of the first end portion of the drill element body.

25. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 22 where the slot has at least one edge and the first end portion of the drill element has at least one sunken guideway therein which receives the edge of the slot.

26. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 22 where the plate member has a pentagonal configuration.

27. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 22 where the second tapered end of the plate member merges with the drill element.

28. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 22 where the driver element, the drill element, and the plate member are press fitted together.

29. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 22 including a pair of annular channels between said first and second ends of the body of the driver element.

30. **(original)** A bit comprising
a driver element including

an elongated body having a longitudinal axis and a predetermined diameter, a driver head at a first end of the driver element body, a cavity at a second end of the driver element body axially aligned with the longitudinal axis of the driver element body and open at the second end of the driver element body and having a predetermined diameter smaller than the diameter of the driver element body, and

a groove in the second end of the driver element body intersecting the cavity and having a predetermined width,
a drill element including

an elongated body,
a first end portion with a diameter slightly larger than said diameter of the cavity, and

a second end portion including a drill segment, and

a plate member having

a first end,

a second end that is tapered, and

a predetermined width slightly larger than the predetermined width of the groove in the driver element body,

said driver element and drill element being axially aligned, with the first end portion of the drill element being at least partially inserted into the cavity, and the first end of the plate member being at least partially inserted into the groove.

31. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 30 where the plate member has a pentagonal configuration.

32. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 30 where the second tapered end of the plate member has an apex merging with the drill element.

33. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 30 where the driver element, the drill element, and the plate member are press fitted together.

34. **(original)** The bit according to Claim 30 including a pair of annular channels between said first and second ends of the body of the driver element.

35. **(canceled)** A bit comprising a drill element at one end, a driver element at another end, and means for providing a countersink concurrent with drilling a hole in an object, said means for providing a countersink being disposed between said drill element and driver element.

36. **(cancel)** A connect-disconnect coupling for a bit having a driver element, a drill element, and a plate member, said coupling including

a spindle body having at one end a cavity with an open mouth of predetermined configuration to receive therein the bit, and

a slot intersecting the open mouth and sized to receive the plate member when the bit is inserted through the open mouth into the cavity with one of said elements at least partially inserted in the cavity.

37. **(cancel)** The connect-disconnect coupling according to Claim 36 where the cavity has a cross-sectional portion that is substantially the same as a predetermined cross-sectional configuration of the driver element.

38. **(cancel)** The connect-disconnect coupling according to Claim 36 where the spindle body has a longitudinal axis and the slot intersects said longitudinal axis.